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ADDRESSES

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH
1919

BERGEN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Bergen County Historical Society

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Assembly Room, Johnson Public Library Building

Hackensack, New Jersey

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 1919

at 8 o'clock

PROGRAM

Address of Welcome Lewis Marsena Miller
President

Report of Membership Committee Cornelius V. R. Bogert
Chairman

Report of the Treasurer Theodore Romaine
Treasurer

Music The Glee Club

Address—"Local History in the Making" . . Mr. Reid Howell
Bergen County Board of Freeholders

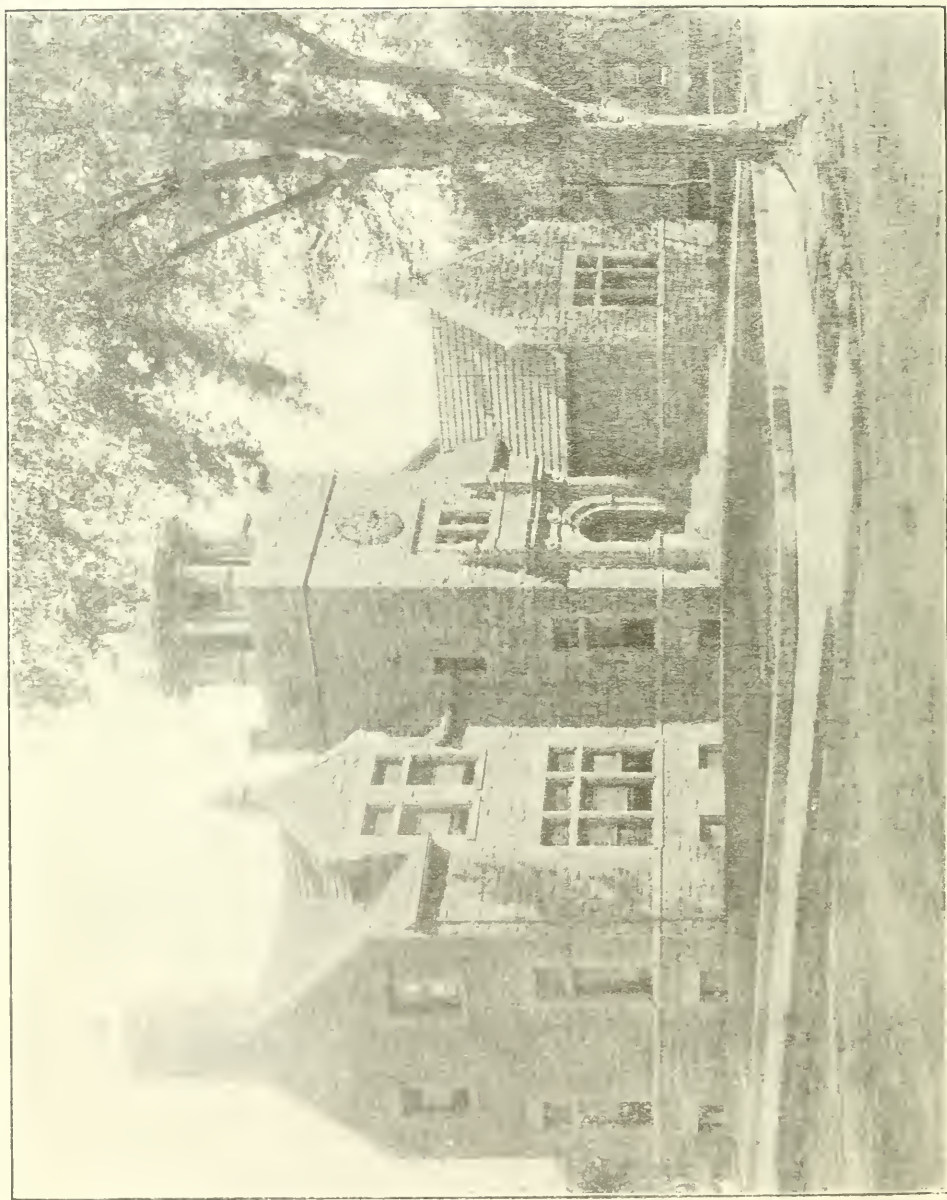
Music The Glee Club

Address—"Some Achievements of Camp Merritt"
Major F. G. Landon
Morale Officer, Camp Merritt

Address—"The Camp Merritt Memorial" . . Mr. W. H. Roberts
Bergen County Board of Freeholders

Address—"The Aims of Our Association"
Dr. Herman H. Horne
Professor of the History of Education,
New York University

Final Number—The Social Half Hour
All Members and Guests



HOME OF THE BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Johnson Public Library Building, Hackensack

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On Saturday evening, April 26th, 1919, the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Bergen County Historical Society was held in this room.

This evening, six months later, occurs our first Semi-Annual Meeting, and I want to tell you of the pleasure it gives me to greet so many of my fellow members and the assurance it gives of increasing interest in the work and in the purpose for which this Society is organized.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was resolved that in addition to our regular annual meeting in April, as required by our constitution, at which we hear reports of standing committees and elect officers for the ensuing year, a "get together" meeting shall be held here in October of each year.

Also, one each month November to March inclusive at such places in the county where suitable arrangements can be made by the local Vice-President and sufficient interest manifested by the resident members.

In this manner it is hoped that the purposes of the Society will become more widely known, its membership roll broadened, and correspondingly its ability to carry forward the purposes for which the Society is organized. Its promoters had lofty ideals, and not all have yet been realized. I wonder how many members know that the Bergen County Historical Society stands for:

The intellectual cultivation and development of its members.

To make researches into historical facts, and collect data relating thereto.

To suitably mark by monument or tablet historic sites, to preserve them from oblivion.

To collect and preserve genealogical records and family traditions.

To foster National, State, Local and Family pride.

To cultivate throughout the county a spirit of Patriotism, which is love of country, respect for its laws and aid to uphold them.

We have various standing committees whose duty it is to aid specifically in fulfilling the duties imposed by this declaration of principles.

In March, 1902, seventeen gentlemen met in the Johnson Public Library Building and on the 26th of that month the Bergen County Historical Society was organized and a constitution adopted.

In February, 1907, the Society was incorporated under an act of the New Jersey Legislature entitled "An Act to Incorporate Associations not for pecuniary profit."

In chronological order the Executives of the Society have been:

Hon. William M. Johnson, Hackensack, 1902-03.

Mr. Cornelius Christie, Leonia, 1903-04.

Mr. T. N. Glover, Rutherford, 1904-05.

Hon. Cornelius Doremus, Ridgewood, 1905-06.

Mr. Burton H. Albee, Paterson, 1906-07.

Dr. Byron G. Van Horne, Englewood, 1907-08.

Col. W. D. Snow, Hackensack, 1908-09.

Hon. David D. Zabriskie, Ridgewood, 1909-10.

Mr. Everett L. Zabriskie, Ridgewood, 1910-11.

Mr. Howard B. Goetschius, Little Ferry, 1911-12.

Mr. Matt J. Bogert, Demarest, 1912-13.

Mr. Robert T. Wilson, Saddle River, 1913-14.

Mrs. Frances A. Westervelt, Hackensack, 1914-16

Mr. Cornelius V. R. Bogert, Bogota, 1916-18.

Mr. Arthur Van Buskirk, Hackensack, 1918-19.

Mr. Lewis Marsena Miller, Leonia, 1919-20.

The steady though not rapid growth of the Society and the many objects of historic interest now in our museum testify to the ability and conservatism with which the affairs of the Society have been conducted.

At the date of our last annual meeting, April 26th, our membership roll numbered one hundred and forty-five. It now numbers three hundred and seventy-eight. It is gratifying to have this evidence of awakened public interest in the plans and purposes of the Society.

To these new members, all and singly, I extend on behalf of the Society a cordial welcome and an equally cordial invitation to take an active part in its work. I ask that each will look over the list of standing committees and let me know in which line of work you can feel the liveliest interest. I will see that opportunity soon knocks at your door.

I want to call attention to one of the principal objects of the Society which should receive more attention than has been possible with the limited means available. I refer to the many points of historic interest which have not been marked by commemorative monuments or tablets. The records of the Society are not complete in this particular and I wish every member of the Society would become a committee of one to seek out such places, verify their claims and then report these to me for action by the "Historic Sites and Events" committee.

There are few, if any counties in the United States so rich in scenes and events connected with the early history of our country. Bergen County has been making history and contributing to the wonderful development of the Nation all along through the years that have passed since the first settlers came. But during the past two years there has been a great work carried on here, undoubtedly the most important in the history of the county, important not only to us but to the whole Nation.

From Camp Merritt, here in Bergen County, nearly one-third of all the men sent overseas received their final training and equipment and embarked, mostly from Alpine, to go "over there" and help "make the world a decent place to live in." And how nobly they did it! Not all who went have come back, some will never come, but more than five hundred thousand returned soldiers, covered with glory, have been received and cared for at Camp Merritt until ready to go to the demobilization camp nearest their home towns.

It is the duty of Bergen County to see to it that the site of Camp Merritt is marked by a noble and impressive Memorial which shall commemorate the wonderful work carried forward and accomplished in so short a time.

This is an ambitious enterprise for the Bergen County Historical Society, but in line with its duty and we were not afraid to undertake it. And what is more important, with the earnest co-operation of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and of the Camp authorities the building of this Memorial, costing one hundred thousand dollars, and possibly more, will be accomplished.

Major Sullivan, the Executive Officer of Camp Merritt, who is taking Major Landon's place in this program, will tell you of the wonderful work that has been carried on here in Bergen County and of which we necessarily could know so little until the ban on publicity was recently removed.

Mr. Roberts, the Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, will tell you of the work of the Camp Merritt Memorial Association since its organization.

The Camp Merritt Memorial will not only mark the site and commemorate the achievements of that camp, but it will stand as testimony to the activity of the Bergen County Historical Society in fulfilling its obligations to Bergen County.

I have referred to the ambition and the duty of this Society in connection with the Camp Merritt Memorial. I regret that this movement did not originate here, but Major Francis G. Landon, the Morale Officer of Camp Merritt, is the father of the idea and an efficient co-worker in its accomplishment. It is proper that the records of this Society should tell its history from the beginning, and the beginning is shown in the following correspondence:

HEADQUARTERS

CAMP MERRITT, NEW JERSEY.

Morale Office

June 17, 1919

Mr. Theodore Romaine, Secretary
The Bergen County Historical Society
158 Main Street
Hackensack, N. J.
Dear Sir:—

The Camp Merritt newspaper, The Merritt Dispatch, in its Memorial Day number, suggested the idea of erecting a Monument to indicate for all time the place where Camp Merritt stood.

We are looking into the matter as regards the title of a bit of land for such purpose, its cost, etc. The question arises to whom could we turn over its care and upkeep, and the thought was that the Bergen County Historical Society might be willing and interested enough in the idea to help solve this problem.

Will you be kind enough to let me know the view of your Society as to the suggestion.

I am very truly yours,

(Signed) F. G. LANDON.

Major A. G.
Morale Officer.

June 20, 1919.

Major F. G. Landon,
Morale Officer,
Camp Merritt,
New Jersey.
Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th inst., which I am referring to our President, Mr. Lewis M. Miller, 112 Oak-tree Place, Leonia, New Jersey. You will doubtless hear from him either by letter or in person.

Thanking you for referring this matter to our Society, I am,

Yours very truly,
(Signed) THEODORE ROMAINE,
Secretary.

Leonia, 22nd June, 1919.

Major F. G. Landon,
Morale Officer,
Camp Merritt, N. J.
Dear Sir:

I am today in receipt of your letter of the 17th inst. addressed to Mr. Romaine, the Secretary of this Society, and assure you that personally I am in sympathy with the idea of erecting a monument not only to indicate the site of Camp Merritt, but to commemorate the important work begun, accomplished and finished there.

It will be my pleasure to bring this matter before the Executive Committee of this Society at their first meeting.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) LEWIS M. MILLER,
President.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee called to consider this matter a Special Committee was appointed to carry forward the movement, viz:

Cornelius V. R. Bogert, Chairman.
Dr. Byron G. Van Horne, of Englewood.
Mr. M. J. Bogert, of Demarest.

This Committee, with the President, appeared before

the Board of Chosen Freeholders soliciting the co-operation of the Board and appointment of a committee of three to act with us, which request was promptly complied with by the appointment of

Mr. Reid Howell, of Rutherford, Chairman.

Mr. William H. Roberts, of Closter.

Mr. Charles K. Allen, of Ridgewood.

This action was reported to Major Landon at Camp Merritt, whereupon General Duncan, Commandant of the Camp, appointed

Major Francis G. Landon, Morale Officer

Major Max W. Sullivan, Executive Officer

Major Jessie I. Sloat, Chief Medical Officer

a committee to represent the Camp and co-operate with the Historical Society and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

These three committees met at the Officers' Club and organized the Camp Merritt Memorial Association by electing

Cornelius V. R. Bogert, President

William H. Roberts, Vice-President

Major Francis G. Landon, Secretary

and constituting these three officers as the Executive Committee.

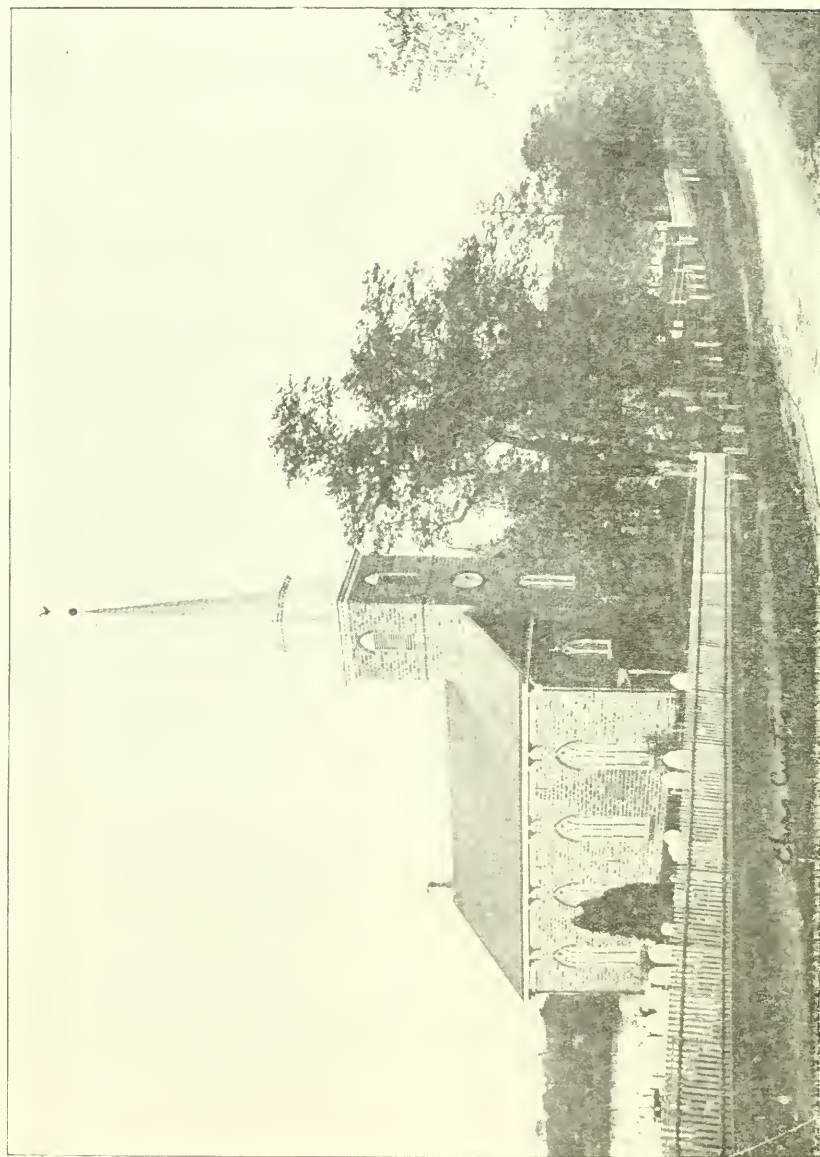
Major-General George B. Duncan, Commandant of the Post, Mr. Joseph Kinzley, Jr., Director of the Board of Freeholders, Mr. Lewis M. Miller, President of the Bergen County Historical Society, were elected members of the Association.

Subsequently the committee of the Historical Society was enlarged by the appointment of Mr. Abram DeRonde, Mr. Edmund W. Wakelee, Mr. Daniel E. Pomeroy, Mr. Dwight W. Morrow, Mr. J. W. Binder, Hon. William M. Johnson, Mr. William Cenklin and Mr. George Van Buskirk.

These gentlemen were immediately elected to membership of the Camp Merritt Memorial Association, which has undertaken with the co-operation of all the members of the Bergen County Historical Society, the construction of a Memorial which shall be noble in proportion, dignified, artistic and inspiring.



THE PARAMUS CHURCH, BUILT 1735



THE SCHRAALENBURGH DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH. ERECTED 1779

THE AIMS OF OUR ASSOCIATION

BY PROFESSOR H. H. HORNE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.

Resident of Leonia.

Carlyle says a nation without a history is a nation without heroes. We want to make history, and know history that we may have heroes. American history and American traditions help make the American spirit, which inspired the final effort in winning the Great War. America sent crusading heroes to Europe.

The function of an historical association is to be society's memory. Its motto might well be: "Lest We Forget!"

At this point let me read into the record one good paragraph,—provided me by our active and progressive president, on our aims, as follows:

The Bergen County Historical Society was organized in 1902 and incorporated in 1907 for the intellectual cultivation and development of its members.

To protect and preserve genealogical records and family traditions.

To make researches into historical facts and to collect data relating thereto.

To seek and suitably mark to preserve from oblivion historic sites and events.

To cultivate and broaden a spirit of Patriotism throughout the County.

To foster and extend National, State, Local and Family pride.

How are we to solve our problem and be Society's memory for Bergen County? There are a number of things we might well undertake, both as a society and as individual members. Among these I venture to note the following:

1. Preserve all war materials, all souvenirs of the war, in whatsoever tangible form. One member of our Society, Mr. R. H. Greene, of Leonia, has already collected several hundred posters. A century from now such material will probably be rare and very valuable.

2. Dig. The sites of the Revolutionary battle grounds, as described in Nelson's History of Bergen County, might well be dug over for relics. Other counties have been rewarded for such effort.

3. Study the publications of other historical societies, for information and suggestive ideas. Exchange periodicals.

4. Concentrate on one point for a season, like Dress, Drink, or Deportment. Urge every member to be ready to

contribute something to the meeting. Have a talk-fest at the meetings devoted to these points. Other topics will be mentioned later.

5. Interview the oldest residents of each community, and make notes on their recollections of men and things and folk-ways.

6. Keep some leading Historical Magazines on file in the library and let the public school teachers of the county know about the society, its work, and its museum, and reference library.

7. Prizes on assigned topics for compositions by school children should be offered. A good beginning has already been made in the Allison prizes.

8. Study Court House records for interesting historical material, sure to be found, concerning laws, deeds, wills, boundaries and the like.

9. Rummage in garrets. An old hair trunk may reveal precious documents and souvenirs, and the hunt itself will prove engaging.

10. Write out your own reminiscences, and, if you have never done so, begin now and keep a diary for one year at least. Report any and everything coming under your daily observation. It will be valuable for posterity, and may win you a place in a footnote of the future history of Bergen County.

11. Preserve old newspapers, old albums, and old photos, with the names and dates plainly marked on each picture.

12. Keep the records of the meetings of the Borough Councils carefully. Some of the records of the early town meetings of this county are without doubt well worth editing and publishing.

13. The files of the leading County papers should be carefully kept. The new building of the Society should have a fire-proof vault for its most valuable possessions.

14. Study folk-lore and old forms of speech. The Jersey Dutch dialect and pronunciations are unique and interesting. Old superstitions reveal the folk-soul.

15. Put interesting historical notes in the papers, and sign yourself a member of this Society.

16. Give what you can spare from your own collection of antiques to the museum of the Association. Do it by gift now, not in your will, and get the living satisfaction of knowing it is done.

17. The Association should make itself well known in the County by its aggressive support of the big movements of the

day; for example the Roosevelt Memorial and the Camp Merritt Memorial.

18. Investigate such topics as these in the past history of the county:

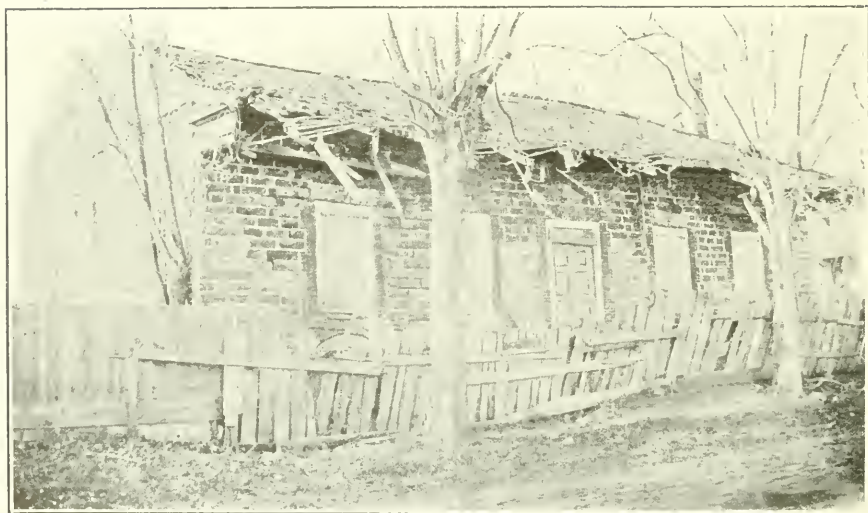
Churches	Boundaries	Lighting
Home-Life	Indians	Heating
Agriculture	First Letters	Styles
Government	Cemeteries	Manners
Newspapers	and Names	Transportation
Cooking	Schools	Taverns
Costumes	Industries	Negroes
Intoxicants	Money	Mills
Roads	Railroads	War Sites

What suggestiveness in such place names as Fort Lee, Closter, Hackensack, Saddle River, and English Neighborhood (old name of Leonia)!

And what interesting ancestral history there must be behind such personal names as Ackerson, Blauvelt, Brinkerhoff, Cosse, DeBaun, DeRonde, Doremus, Goetschius, Jeffers, Kelder, Linkroum, Mabon, Marinus, Parigot, Staib, Stumm, Terhune, Van Buskirk, Voorhuis, Zabriskie, and all the "Vans," and many others.

If we should undertake even a portion of such a program as this in carrying out our aim to be Bergen County's memory for it, how local pride would be stimulated, how the historic feeling would be cultivated, how the past would live, how we should antagonize violent overthrow of existing institutions, how elders and youngsters would be brought together by common interests, how county *esprit de corps* would be developed and would take possession of our many newcomers, how patriotism would be cultivated, and how present problems would be understood and appreciated in the light of the past evolution of society!

There is only one question for the Association and for its individual members: Will We Do It?



THE ANDRE PRISON HOUSE, BEFORE RESTORATION



THE ANDRE PRISON HOUSE, AS IT NOW APPEARS

ADDRESS BY MAJOR MAX W. SULLIVAN

Executive Officer of Camp Merritt

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I hope I can do justice to Major Landon, whose time I am to fill because of his illness.

If you will pardon me, I would mention that I arrived at Camp Merritt about 6:00 A.M. September 17, 1917, with the 49th Infantry from Syracuse, New York. As Adjutant of the Guard Regiment, later Camp Adjutant, and as Executive Officer of the Camp for the past year, which various capacities will give you my connection with the Camp.

Camp Merritt occupies an area of seven hundred seventy (770) acres; five hundred eighty (580) acres of that is actually occupied in barrack buildings. There are one hundred ninety (190) acres left, which is occupied by warehouses, railroad areas and a small athletic field, setting aside for garden produce about eighty (80) acres, which the permanent personnel put to very good use in raising quantities of garden truck for their various messes. The buildings occupied by troops passing overseas was eleven hundred seventy-one (1171), buildings for hospital ninety-three (93), and for welfare organization twenty-eight (28), making a total number of buildings twelve hundred ninety-two (1292).

As to the capacity, which is somewhat over forty-two thousand (42,000), is worthy of mention. I had occasion to go to Camp Dix recently, to go over their organization, and in doing so they told me, with a great deal of pride, that they had a capacity of thirty-five thousand (35,000) which was by far the largest camp in the country according to their own statements. Being their guest I said nothing, but for your information, Camp Merritt has barrack accommodations for forty thousand four hundred thirty-eight (40,438) enlisted men and quarters for two thousand twelve (2,012) officers.

With regard to the personnel necessary to operate the Camp—we found it necessary as the work grew to increase our commissioned and enlisted strength so that at the time of the signing of the armistice our personnel consisted of approximately five hundred (500) officers and seven thousand (7,000) enlisted men. At present our total strength, commissioned and enlisted, is about thirty-five hundred (3,500).

What we tried to do in getting the men overseas was to get them there as quickly as possible with little inconvenience and publicity, and I believe we succeeded. In total, we sent overseas nearly seven hundred thousand (700,000) men. The

greatest number sent in any one month was in September, 1918, which approximately reached eighty-five thousand (85,000). On troops returning we have had come back to date nearly seven hundred thousand (700,000). The greatest number in bringing them back from overseas in one month was not quite seventy thousand (70,000).

It is uninteresting to go into detail too much, and I do not want to burden you with a series of figures or statistics. We tried various schemes in handling the troops so as to handle them as fast as possible, so by process of experiment we found the best method was to divide the camp into seven sections or districts as they were finally called. We had seven small camps, in other words, within the larger camp. As troops came in to go overseas they would be assigned a certain district and they left from that district for overseas. The transient personnel never found it necessary to come to camp headquarters as the district headquarters could meet all their wants and we were not annoyed by endless or unnecessary questions. In receiving troops from overseas the same system, in reverse order, worked very well. We had a receiving district where all troops from overseas were billeted, and after going thru the Sanitary Process Plant (the delouser) they were split up into detachments corresponding to their home camps and distributed in the other districts for preparation to be sent home. The 7th District was used for colored troops. They were handled entirely in this district and kept more or less separate as much as possible from the rest of the camp.

In the matter of sending troops overseas, we were frequently called upon, from May up to the signing of the armistice, to equip five thousand (5,000) men in twenty-four (24) hours. This meant the replacing of all worn articles of uniform, equipment, clipping of the hair, and most tedious of all details was the stamping of identification tags, in duplicate. At times we had as many as forty men doing this work. The greatest number we received at one time to equip was fifteen thousand (15,000). They arrived in a series of fourteen trains at that particular time. Especially when there was large convoys going out we were called upon frequently to equip five hundred (500) to two thousand (2,000) men at short notice, usually from eight to fifteen hours. We found it necessary at times, or several times in fact, to empty the barracks on one side of camp, get the troops on the road and start them for the railroad station or Alpine landing while the buildings would be refilled, as fast as emptied, by incoming troops, not allowing the fires even to go out.

The question soon arose as to how we should keep track of these men. The scheme finally established was on individual 3x5 inch cards and as the status of each individual changed during his stay in Camp a corresponding entry had to be made on his particular card, making changes that often reached ten thousand (10,000) entries per day. Every time a man's status changed, we would change the record on his card. To accomplish all this it was found necessary to answer correspondence during the day which up until very recently amounted to two thousand (2,000) letters a day. We would use the clerical forces during the day to get the data from these cards of men who had gone through and then use a night force to bring the card record up to date as to what happened during the preceding twenty-four hours. Inquiries from anxious mothers were answered during the day from data obtained from the above mentioned cards.

For the troops coming in from overseas we used the same process, except that the work of getting the troops segregated according to their home camps on their return was much more in detail than getting them over. Troops for overseas was only a matter of inspection and equipment, while we found in bringing them back from overseas, the men were apt to find fault and criticize, and we tried to satisfy everybody. In so doing, we had to go through the records of every man to see exactly where he should be sent and we tried to send them as near as possible to the camp nearest their home. He would never be over three hundred and fifty (350) miles from his home upon arrival at a demobilization camp. In order to accomplish that, we had three shifts of eight (8) hours each of the permanent personnel who continued to work on these records during the stay of the individual. The stay of a transient was occupied as follows: During the first twenty-four (24) hours the permanent personnel inspected the records of the men to find out the nearest home camp, for example, Camp Dix for this State, or to whatever camp they should be assigned. Then they were moved from the receiving district, segregated into detachments for the camp nearest their respective homes. The next day was used in making up train rosters and the third day in making up the train and getting them out.

So you see a man's stay at camp was seldom over seventy-two (72) hours after coming back from overseas. There were a number of complaints about details, but upon investigation it was found that it was not caused by a fault of ours, but the men themselves would often leave Camp and not return on time, and when an individual would return

at ten-thirty (10:30) to make a ten (10) o'clock train he would necessarily be held until the next train for that particular camp was made up, sometimes causing the individual a two or three day delay.

The matter of feeding—at first the cooks belonging to organizations were required to prepare the meals for their own organizations and we furnished them the rations and necessary kitchen equipment, but it was found there was an endless waste. They would leave the kitchens hurriedly sometimes, then food was allowed to spoil.

The School for Bakers and Cooks was established and the messing arrangements of the entire Camp was run under the supervision of one head. We had one hundred and sixty-four (164) kitchens in the Camp at one time in operation under the School for Bakers and Cooks. The fires were kept going so that men shifted from one part of the Camp to another, their meals were never delayed. In connection with the School we established a course of instruction covering a period of two (2) months which permitted us to send overseas several graduate cooks and bakers in addition to handling the various kitchens in camp. For a period of six (6) months just past there was a net saving to the Government of a little over two hundred thousand (200,000) dollars over what it would have been if organizations fed themselves.

From the medical point of view, we found it necessary when troops were brought in from overseas that they be put through a sanitary plant. All wornout and shrunken clothing was replaced with new. Prior to leaving camp for the camp nearest their respective homes, the men were examined one (1) hour before entraining and if not found in good physical condition were taken out and held for the next movement.

As to flies and mosquitoes, it was anticipated there would be considerable annoyance from this source, but on the contrary we kept the ground free of them, and with forty thousand (40,000) troops in camp, never have I seen any flies to any great extent. We have fifty (50) colored men of the Sanitary Detachment operating in a radius of three (3) miles of camp, cleaning out ditches, water-holes and other like breeding places for flies and mosquitoes. With a little effort on the part of the Sanitary Department the grounds were kept in a clean condition.

As to our sick rate, Camp Merritt has the lowest sick rate of any camp in the country. Considering the nature of the camp, men passing through it in either direction, the record of having the lowest sick rate in the country is something to remember. Even during the awful Influenza epi-

demic, and having to shift the men, our death rate during that time was lower than any other Military Camp in the country, considering the size.

As to care, the Post Exchange is the general store by which we tried to meet the needs of the men during their stay, and to furnish them with tobacco, &c. From July, 1918, until June 30, 1919, there was a million dollars in sales, the net profit was not quite one hundred thousand (100,000) dollars, so that no soldier could consistently complain that he was charged outrageously in prices. We found that the commercial bakeries would not fix us up a pie that the men liked. We undertook to get a pie from the commercial bakeries, but they charged us too much. We established our own pie bakery, it cost five thousand (5,000) dollars, and we made up our own pie with a thick filling that cost us seventeen and one-half ($17\frac{1}{2}$) cents and we sold it to the men for twenty (20) cents.

Men coming back from overseas were anxious to get out of their hobnail shoes. We found we could buy shoes in five thousand (5,000) pair lots. We obtained them for five dollars and seventy cents (\$5.70) and sold them to the soldiers for five dollars and eighty cents (\$5.80). We tried to help the men out in every way possible. The same shoe is sold on Broadway in New York City for twelve dollars (\$12.00).

We also found that we could give better service to the men in passing through by establishing a barber shop. We constructed a twenty-four chair shop, which was fully appreciated. We cut the prices to rock bottom. The barber shop only paid for itself less than two (2) months ago.

Out of the five per cent. profit we made in the last year, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) of that was put into buildings and improvements, so that there is not much left in actual money.

As to the Welfare Organizations, Major Landon, as Morale Officer, was their official head, handled them very well.

A camp paper was started there known as the Camp Merritt Dispatch. We tried to develop any current stories about camp that would interest the men and tend to create a home feeling amongst them and give them something to think about during their off moments.

The Y. W. C. A. had a welfare house there. They conducted a dance for the enlisted men every Thursday night. The K. of C. likewise had similar arrangements on Tuesday night.

Another place of amusement was the Liberty Theatre, which also added to the welfare of the men during the eve-

nings. The capacity was twenty-three hundred (2300) seats. There were performances each night, vaudeville changes three times weekly, and in that way we were able to keep the men entertained during the evening.

A true soldiers' club located centrally, known as Merritt Hall, was another institution that will always be remembered by the men that passed thru Camp Merritt as it was a place, open day and night, where the men could get something to eat in a hurry at very moderate prices. This club was always crowded. It contained a cafeteria, library and some twenty pool tables.

Camp Merritt was named after one of our most distinguished officers, Major General Wesley Merritt, who was a noted Cavalry leader and Corps Commander during the Civil War, before he was twenty-seven years of age. He was Superintendent at the United States Military Academy, at West Point, from 1882 to 1887. He later commanded our Expeditionary Forces, which captured Manila from the Spanish Forces in August, 1898.

ADDRESS BY W. H. ROBERTS
of Closter

Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I should go back a little to the beginning—take the letter that Mr. Miller received from Major Landon.

When that letter was received by the Historical Society, they found in looking into the matter, that the problem was a big one. It was a very proper thing to ask the Bergen County Historical Society, to do this, but the more they looked into it, the bigger it got, so as Mr. Miller tells you, they came before the Board of Freeholders, and with the recommendation of the Army officers and the wonderful spirit shown by the officers at the camp, and the influence of the Bergen County Historical Society, the Freeholders really had no alternative but to say yes. We felt as you do and as the men at Camp Merritt feel, that Camp Merritt is one of the greatest camps in the United States. I think Major Sullivan is modest when he said a few things tonight. I would rather have him exaggerate, than be too modest. He says Camp Merritt is the best camp in the country. I think it is the best in the world. The boys that have gone through have told me it is like going from the Bowery to Fifth Avenue. They were happy; I never saw a boy (and I have talked to hundreds of them) who was dissatisfied.

The Board of Freeholders were anxious to co-operate with the Historical Society and the Army officials, and we appointed a committee. We have three committees. These committees work together harmoniously. The committees have appointed an Executive Committee who will do a great deal of the detail work and report. The idea of the Board of Freeholders was to perpetuate this memorial and that was the reason why we, representing all of you, should act as the custodian of this memorial, because we wanted to make it a permanent proposition. The Bergen County Historical Society is prosperous today, but twenty years from now we do not know where it will be, and in the event that it should disband there would be no one to take care of the memorial, and for that reason the Board of Freeholders decided to accept title to property and to handle funds and to disburse them under proper committees, to see that the money was spent properly and as directed. That is as far as we have gone.

It was necessary to get some property. The original idea was to take the intersection of Madison Avenue and Knickerbocker Road, and place the memorial in the center. We had other suggestions, but the committee decided we wanted a site that would place the monument so that you would come against it as you came up either road. We have agreed that the proper place is at the intersection of these two streets.

To aid the Historical Society and committee, the County Engineer has done some surveying and the committees have unanimously decided to use a circle of 150 feet radius from the centre of the road, 100 feet radius from the centre to be devoted to memorial and landscape treatment which will be necessary, and the part from 100 feet to the 150 foot mark for a driveway. Every vehicle, every automobile has to drive around the monument.

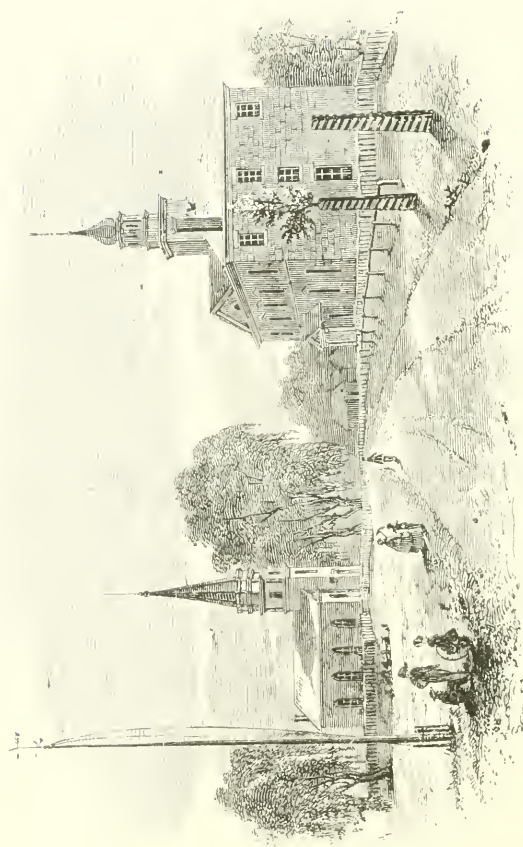
When we got as far as that, we found it necessary to get a little further advice. Washington, in the meantime, heard about the Bergen County Historical Society movement for a Camp Merritt Memorial. We received a letter from the American Federation of Fine Arts, composed of men who are of the greatest authority on Art and Sculpture and Landscape. You have all heard of the dollar-a-year men who have gone to Washington to give their services. You cannot afford to hire them, and the Government cannot afford to pay them. Every man of the American Federation of Fine Arts who has volunteered his services gets nothing for it, but he is the greatest authority in the United States. He gets his transportation, but his time away from his profession, and business, and home, is given gratis. They have asked us to meet them in New York, with the idea of getting a fitting monument, something that would do credit to the officers and men who have passed through Camp Merritt, and to the people of Bergen County.

This week the Executive Committee, composed of Mr. C. V. R. Bogert, Major Landon and myself, were to meet with Mr. Moore at the Century Club. Mr. Bogert and I attended. We all regret that Major Landon was too ill to attend.

This Fine Arts Commission was formed at the request of the President of the United States, and it has been busily engaged since the armistice, because there are so many monuments being erected that are not right. We have been advised to get in touch with organizations that are putting up memorials. We were fortunate in having the co-operation of this committee. We are awaiting advice from them to

tell us how to go ahead. They said the average monument is put up under such wierd taste the memorial is not in keeping with the surroundings. He said it is difficult because we have got to treat the subject without the surroundings, and they were pleased to find that we have decided on the circle of 150 feet radius. It makes the task much easier for them. It is an architectural proposition. They feel that the treatment around that monument is as essential as the monument itself. We accept and value their advice.

To start this proposition, Major Landon did not say anything about that, but these Army people from Camp Merritt did not come to us with suggestions without giving us something. They are starting the movement themselves with \$7,500, through the generous influence of General Duncan and other officers. If the Camp Merritt men, who are giving their lives and every minute of their time outside of their business can do this much, the people of Bergen County should do their share. We expect this memorial will cost \$100,000. If the men of Camp Merritt can give us \$7,500 it ought to be easy for the people of Bergen County to give us the difference. We expect to get some State aid. We contemplate starting a drive. We are rather tired of drives, but the people want to contribute. We will have to let you know how and when we are going to do it. We have a man in mind as chairman. The organization can be perfected in a few weeks. We want every member of this Society to talk about it and advertise it. The Board of Freeholders are doing this because the people want us to do it. We will let you know from time to time through your officers how we are doing it. Get all your friends actively interested, and help the publicity committee of this Society to awaken public interest throughout the county.



COURT HOUSE AND JAIL
ERECTED 1819

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH
ORGANIZED 1686

LOCAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING

BY REID HOWELL

Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my purpose to attempt to bring to your notice a few of the facts and events in Bergen County that might be considered as having something to do with "history in the making."

History is a narration of past events; it is a systematic account of facts and events affecting nations and states—that is the dictionary definition of history. It is not all a story of Kings and Queens.

We rarely find ourselves conscious of the fact that we are observing history in the making. In our work-a-day world we seldom think of minor happenings as having their place in the making of history. Our angle of vision ordinarily does not register events we witness as a part of history. The macadam road we see being supplanted by asphalt, and this in turn by concrete, is seldom thought of as a fact or event in the history of road building.

However, during the great war there was forced upon our consciousness, and in many emphatic ways, the startling fact that we were witnessing history being made.

The facts and events in Bergen County that reveal history in the making have a past in one of two things—either in the outcome of public sentiment; or in the outcome of legislative enactment, or are a consequence of both.

The history around which tonight my thought is turning begins with a citizens' movement to establish a small Board of Freeholders, or with the public at large in Bergen County setting up a new mode of administrative procedure.

On the first of April in 1912 there was enacted by the Legislature an Act to reorganize the Boards of Chosen Freeholders, making it possible for counties having the larger boards of freeholders—in this County a board with thirty-two members—to change their system of administration and place it in the hands of seven men. I need not attempt to go into details about what immediately followed the passage of this Act. But in 1914 a very strong citizens' organization, under the leadership of Joseph A. Brohel, was formed in this County for the purpose of having a small Board of Freeholders, and through the influence of this organization was brought about

the adoption of this act in this County, in the fall of 1914, and the election of a small Board of seven men in 1915.*

On January 3, 1916, these seven men met in the Court House and organized. William P. Eager, of Tenafly, was made Director. He was then presented by his friends from Tenafly with a gavel, and in accepting the gift said, among other things: "Hereafter in this County the public dollar shall be the equivalent of the dollar in the private pocket." James M. Harkness was made Clerk, and William A. Linn was made Collector and Clarence Mabie was made Counsel. On that date there was planted in this County a new mile post. There was begun at that time a new chapter in local history.

Immediately following the fall of the new gavel Freeholder Reid Howell offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen, New Jersey, now existing be and the same are hereby abolished and abrogated."

Thus bringing to an end and abolishing for all time the old large Board of Freeholders. Upon the adoption of the resolution Mr. Howell introduced another resolution presenting the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations under which the present Board is now operative.

It is impossible at this time to narrate in detail the work that the Board of Freeholders has since accomplished, nor is it possible to review with much detail many of the events that have since happened, but I do want to cite a few of the facts and events in the life of the new Board that present themselves as "history in the making."

That Act of 1912 under which the Small Board was created provided, among other things, that "whenever the people of a county should adopt the act as its charter, there should be a complete change in the personnel of the county government, and that, upon the organization of the new board every officer who had been appointed by the preceding board should cease to hold his office without regard to its character or the length of its term, so that the new Board of Freeholders might have, in every branch of the county government, men of its own selection, and thus be unhampered by any conditions for the existence of which it was not responsible."

* William Beswick, of Garfield; Louis S. Coc, of Englewood; W. P. Eager, of Tenafly; J. Blauvelt Hopper, of Ridgewood; Reid Howell, of Rutherford; Joseph Kinzley, Jr., of Hackensack; E. B. Webbon, of Ridgfield Park.

Thus it came about that among other officers removed at that time was Mr. J. Ernest Thier, the Supervisor of Roads.

By a provision, however, in the Act of 1912, an exception was made of soldiers and sailors of the United States from being removed from office, and it transpired that Mr. Thier, without the knowledge of the new Board, was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and on March 7, 1917, Mr. Thier was reinstated.

I cannot express to you the pleasure I have in recalling to you this fact. Some of you probably are aware of it. In Mr. Thier the county has a capable executive, and the splendid highways in the county, which we enjoy today, are due to his care in their upkeep.

Another feature of legislation which has to do with history in the making, is the Pierson Act. I am not going to undertake to tell you in minute particulars how the Pierson Act affects our finances, but it does require of the Board of Freeholders that at the first of each year, or beginning now, October, November, December, that they engage in making up a budget for the next year. During the next three months the Board will have next year's program in the making. Every account during the next year will be influenced by the acts of the Board during the next few months. The heads of the different departments, the County Collector, the County Engineer, the Supervisor of Roads, the various Committees, the Surrogate, the County Clerk, the Prosecutor and the Sheriff will all lay before the Board an estimate of the amount of funds that they deem will be required to run their respective departments. For the next few months the Board will consider these estimated amounts and if possible to do so will reduce them, and then will proceed on next year's business with the amount of money fixed upon by the budget. This method of financing the year's work in advance has a great deal to do with many features of your County government that does not appear on the surface. Some men are only too willing at times to accuse a public body such as the Board of Chosen Freeholders of extravagance. As I see it, with the budget system and its method of adoption, and I think you grasp the situation, the possibility of extravagance is almost eliminated. As a matter of fact, the Board is in "hard sledding" right now because of the manner in which it trimmed its budget to the bone last year.

The Civil Service law which recently was adopted in this County has brought about a new condition, in that it secures to a great many of the County employees a life tenure in office. A member of the State Civil Service Commission only

last Wednesday visited the Board to lay before it a minimum and maximum wage scale, providing for the salaries to be paid to all County employees affected by the Civil Service rules. This State Civil Service Commission is operating in this way in all the Counties of the State, and it has brought to Bergen County a scale of wages, and recommends its adoption. This the Board of Freeholders will very likely do. Such a schedule furnishes a very carefully prepared guide for the Board to follow in future in fixing the salaries of its employees.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the Board of Freeholders without such assistance from the State Commission have been able to conduct the affairs of the County on a wage scale to employees, exclusive of the unclassified list and the heads of departments, which at present totals \$214,970 a year. Many of the employees have been in the service of the County for four years, and naturally their salaries already have been increased from time to time, but the Board at no time has been extravagant about it. In some instances it would be questionable if it had been just. The minimum rates under the new scale furnished by the State Civil Service Commission would fix the County pay roll, exclusive of the unclassified list and the heads of departments, at \$206,000. If the maximum figures were being paid the pay roll would be \$273,000. At the present time the pay roll for the same group of employees is only \$214,000.

Of recent date the State Highway Commission was changed and the responsibility shifted from a single commissioner to a commission of eight. Also, the Edge Road Bill became a law, imposing a direct tax of \$15,000,000 on the people of the State for a State highway system.

When the Edge Road Bill was presented to the Legislature there was no provision in it for a State highway in Bergen County. Assemblyman Walter G. Winne discovered the omission and at the very last moment he had Route 10 put in the bill, describing a route from Paterson by way of Dundee Lake to Hackensack and Fort Lee. Upon the adoption of the bill the immediate conclusion was that the road in Bergen County to be taken over as a State highway was Essex Street, and Court Street north of the Court House, and the Fort Lee Turnpike to the Fort Lee Ferry, a route with which you are all familiar. This Fort Lee Turnpike is a road of many steep grades. It was a very costly highway to build. Probably the amount of money that went into its construction was \$500,000. The taking over of this highway as part of Route 10 would involve the tearing up of

much of it in order to reduce the grades. The State Highway Commission do not put money into roads having grades of more than 5 or 6 per cent. These hills on the Fort Lee Turnpike have a grade of 10 to 14 per cent. In addition to these grades, consideration also would have to be given to the enormous expense that already has been put into the permanent improvement of that highway.

Now, let me here remind you of an event in history that took place under the old Board of Freeholders. During the very last days of the old Board they took over from the Public Service Corporation the highway on the southerly side of the Court House, known as Hudson Street, and the Bergen Pike—something like five miles of road that had been in possession of the Public Service people for many years. A highway from which they yet were collecting tolls. With the assistance of the old Board of Freeholders the Public Service put this highway over on the people of the County in an unimproved and worn out condition and with its bridges very much depreciated in value. The present Board of Freeholders faced a great problem there. They could hardly tell how they were to finance it.

When this new proposition from the State came along, with its plan for Route 10 as a State highway in the County, the Board immediately considered the advisability of diverting the route from Court Street and the Fort Lee Turnpike to Hudson Street and the Bergen Turnpike and so put upon the State forever the burden of rebuilding and the upkeep of the Bergen Turnpike. The Board had its Engineering Department, under County Engineer Roscoe Parke McClave, prepare maps with detailed drawings of the new route, also including a new route over the cliff at Edgewater and down to Fort Lee, with the result that when the program was laid before the State Highway Commission with General Goethals present it was accepted, thus relieving the people of the County of the burden of the upkeep of Bergen Turnpike and the rebuilding of the bridges over the Hackensack and the Overpeek Creek.

That is really county history in the making. A splendid performance of the Board of Freeholders. It is one of the most notable things they have as yet accomplished. And this one accomplishment always will be regarded as an achievement.

The State Board of Health under date of August 3, 1917, granted permission to the Freeholders to erect a tuberculosis hospital on the County farm at Oradell. Already there had been much agitation over a tuberculosis hospital

being placed in this County. The State Board some time before had passed upon a site on Chestnut Ridge as acceptable to them, but because of objections that were made by property owners in the vicinity the Board of Freeholders abandoned it and selected the site on the County farm.

Before the erection of a tuberculosis hospital is completed, and the whole program of County institutional development is concluded, a great many things will happen which will be history in the making. And in this connection it is my belief that the members of the Board of Freeholders will appreciate very highly the helpfulness they may have from you of the Historical Society as the people of the County in bringing to them such moral support as will enable them to see it as a part of their duty to go on with that development and their construction program.



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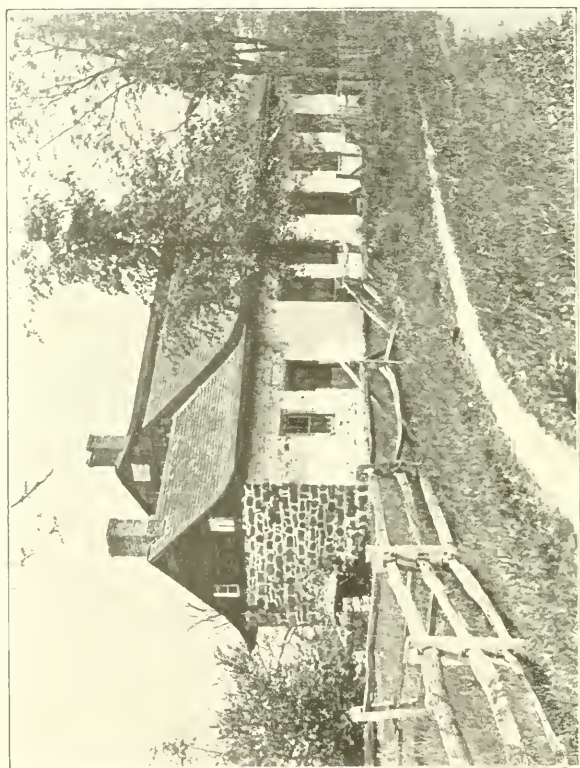
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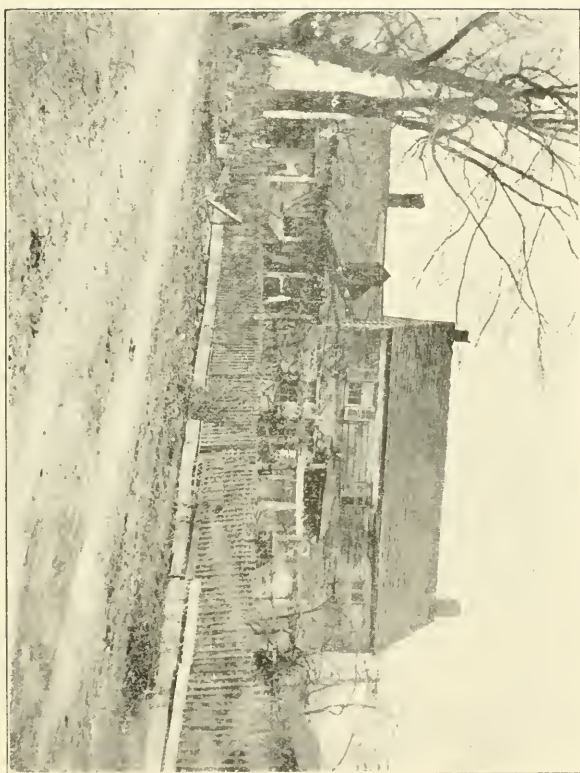
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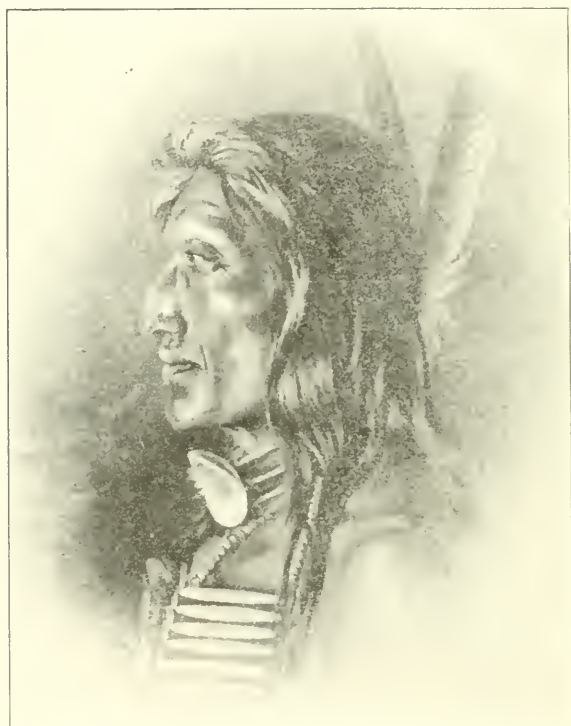
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HOME OF JACOBUS DEAREST, NEW BRIDGE



AN EARLY RESIDENT OF BERGEN COUNTY

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 1919

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